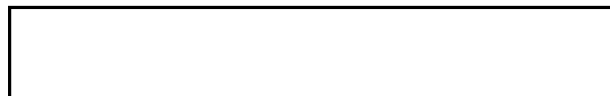


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
5 November 1965

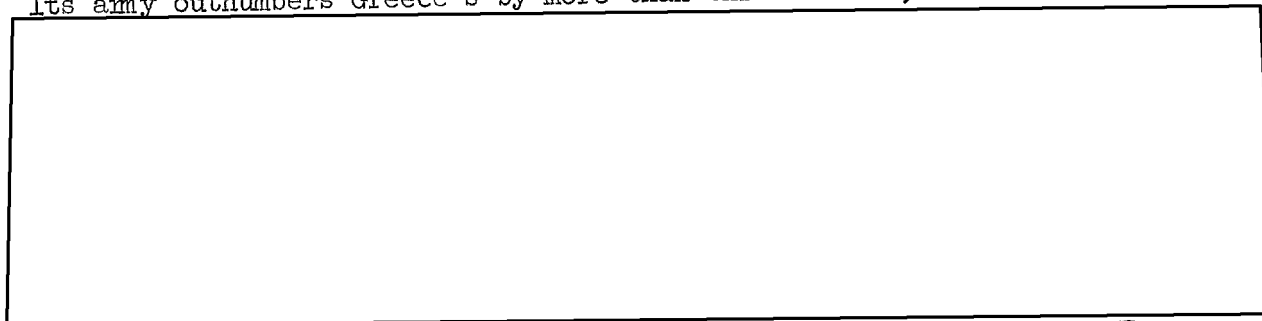
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Greek and Turkish Military Capabilities With Respect
to the Cyprus Crisis

1. Turkey's military establishment is considerably superior to Greece's. The Turkish armed forces outnumber the Greeks' and are better equipped, and in any military action concentrated on the Cyprus area, Ankara's advantage would be enhanced by its proximity to the island.

2. In some respects, however, the two countries' forces have the same strengths and weaknesses. Man for man they are roughly on a par, and each has the capability of mounting large-scale operations against the other on the European mainland. Their organization, discipline, and morale are probably about equal, although in any action resulting from a breakdown of order on Cyprus, the Turks would initially be more emotionally stimulated. By US standards both forces are deficient in logistic support, communications equipment, and combat vehicles, and most of their naval vessels and aircraft are obsolete or obsolescent. Deficiencies in ammunition and petroleum, particularly, would seriously limit both countries' capabilities to conduct all-out operations for a protracted period.

3. Turkey's advantage is most pronounced in its ground forces. Its army outnumbers Greece's by more than three to one, and its



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4. Neither country has any highly developed capability in amphibious warfare or in airborne operations. Despite its generally superior navy and greater seaborne support capability for extended operations, Greece would be extremely vulnerable in mounting any action on Cyprus because of long, exposed supply lines. The Turks have a 5-1 advantage in submarines, and the Greeks would lack any effective air cover. Both countries have ample civilian carriers for any major troop movement, but Greece already has about 10,000 men on the island.

5. The Turkish Air Force is superior to that of the Greeks. The Turks have a fairly proficient fighter-bomber force, including F-100 and F-104 jet aircraft. Most of the Turkish Air Force is located within striking distance of Cyprus. It is capable of close support and reconnaissance missions in the Cyprus area. The Turks could airlift one battalion to Cyprus if they were able to seize control of an airfield on the island. The Greek Air Force, based primarily on the Greek mainland some 500 miles from Cyprus, would experience great difficulty operating in the area. Some operations could be mounted from Rhodes, within 300 miles of Cyprus, but additional logistic equipment would have to be moved there. The Greeks have the technical capability to airlift a battalion to Cyprus, but Turkish air superiority could turn any such operation into a disaster.

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